

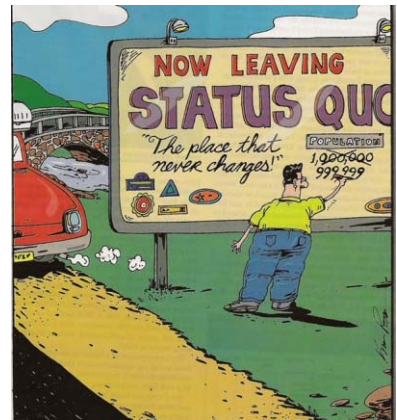
NEW YEAR. NEW OPPORTUNITY.

Jim Rathlesberger, MPA
Executive Officer, Board of Podiatric Medicine
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
Jim_Rathlesberger@dca.ca.gov
916-263-2650 Direct

Podiatric physicians have been the pacesetters.

BPM has pushed precedential public policy, sometimes overcoming stiff, bitter and long bureaucratic resistance:

- the “enforcement matrix report” helped bring accountability to some health boards by disclosing complaint processing times
- the CPMA’s California Liaison Committee (CLC) sponsored reforms in graduate medical education and BPM became the first California board to require 2 years of GME
- BPM made primary source verification of licensing credentials a law, rather than just a gold-standard ideal
- BPM remains the only doctor-licensing board in the country to implement a Continuing Competence program
- BPM is the only doc-licensing board in California to disclose enforcement action to inquiring citizens as soon as we refer a case to the Attorney General for prosecution



Governor Schwarzenegger’s team has urged others to follow BPM’s example with Continuing Competence, *preventing* patient harm rather than just responding to it after the fact. With a new Administration coming in, and the opportunity for more reforms in our upcoming Sunset Review, we are good to go where favorable winds might point.

Our department itself could be strengthened, as BPM urged in some past, perhaps politically-incorrect Strategic Planning. Central administrative offices serving all boards and bureaus could be upgraded and further professionalized. A Department regulating so much of California’s economy could justify transforming its small internal audits staff into a full-fledged, semi-independent Inspector General. Our Director could be empowered with a multi-disciplined Office of Policy & Management Analysis, to vet political initiatives and develop sound public policy options.

Give us *your* thoughts for the New Year. **Happy Holidays!**

High standards ⚡ Continuing Competence ⚡ Reducing medical errors ⚡ Preventing patient harm

California Board of Podiatric Medicine
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1300
Sacramento, CA 95815
www.bpm.ca.gov
916-263-2647